

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Santa Fe National Forest



For Immediate Release

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS FOR THE JEMEZ MOUNTAINS

(SANTA FE, NM)—“Campfires in the Jemez Mountains will be restricted to developed campgrounds until weather and forest conditions improve,” announced Leonard Atencio, Forest Supervisor.

Restrictions of campfires on the west side of the Santa Fe National Forest will go into effect one minute after midnight Thursday night, August 29th. Under these restrictions, all open campfires are banned except within developed campgrounds. The use of propane stoves is permitted, however charcoal grills are prohibited. Smoking is allowed only within an enclosed vehicle or building or recreation site cleared of flammable material.

The restriction order will not be implemented on the east side of the Forest (Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District and the east side of the Espanola R.D.)---Sangre de Christo Mountains and Pecos Wilderness at this time. This side of the Forest has received more moisture this year and is not in a very high fire danger situation, as is the west side.

“After this terrible drought year and having gone through Forest Closures earlier, we’re perplexed by the number of abandoned campfires we are still encountering on the National Forest,” said Atencio, “Within the past couple of weeks we’ve had to suppress several abandoned campfires on the west side of the Forest.”

“We’d like to remind people of the current road closures as a result of the Lakes Fire: State Highway 126 from La Cueva to Cuba and Forest Road 376 at the Gilman Tunnerls , north to Highway 126.

This Labor Day Holiday is expected to be quite busy with people wanting to enjoy the outdoors prior to fall and winter setting in. This is also the big weekend for many big game hunters. Campers and hunters are asked to be extra cautious in the forest. Please report any abandoned campfires or suspicious activity to the local ranger district or to Santa Fe Zone Dispatch (505) 438-7800.

Let’s make our Labor Day Holiday a fire-safe one!

